Composition of National Trust for Handicapped

2482. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the National Trust for the Handicapped;

(b) whether any handicapped persons are included in the Trust; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider their inclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) As per section 3(4) of National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, the Board consists of a chairperson, nine persons appointed from amongst registered organizations, association of parents of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and from association of persons with disabilities, eight persons not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India from the Departments of Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Finance, Labour, Education, Urban Affairs and Employment and Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation and three persons representing the association of Trade, Commerce and Industry engaged in philanthropic activities (at present vacant) and one Chief Executive Officer of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India 9. non-official members of the Board are:

1. Smt. Merry Barua
2. Smt. Sharda Fatehpuria
3. Smt. Rukmini Krishnaswamy
4. Shri Damodar Tilak
5. Prof. K.R. Venkatesha
6. Shri S.C. Pant
7. Shri Akhil Paul
8. Smt. Marlene Kamdar
9. Dr.(Smt.) Rajam PRS Pillay

(b) The section 13 of the Act enjoins upon the Board of the Trust the setting up of local level committees for such areas as may specified. Local level committees are currently being set up at the level of district, consisting of District Magistrate or District Commissioner or an equivalent Officer, a representative of a registered organization working in the field of autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, a disabled person as mentioned in the clause (t) of the Section 2 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

At present 26 local level committees have been set up in accordance with the above. These committees include persons with disabilities.

(c) Question does not arise.

Special Bus facilitating the movement of disabled

2483. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special bus in which Stephen Hawkins travelled as also facilitating the movement of disabled was devised by one lady social worker;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the promoter is creating portable ramps and a stair lift that would help disabled to climb stairs on their wheelchairs;

(c) if so, Government's assessment of both the projects; and

(d) whether Government would subsidise or bear the major cost to make environment barrier free for the 70 million disabled persons of this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A special bus in which Stephen Hawkins travelled as also facilitating the movement of persons with disabilities, was developed by an Occupational Therapist of Akshay Pratisthan, a Non-Government organization.